

REMARKS

Claims 37 and 47 have been amended, claims 42-44 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 51-53 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears e.g. at page 5, first full paragraph and the original claims of the application.

Claims 37-40 and 42-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Fujishima (EP 092628A2) with Rahman (U.S. Patent 6,610,465 B2) in view of Willson (U.S. Patent 6,101,445 A). The rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 37 calls for a photoresist composition that comprises a tetrapolymer that is at least substantially free of aromatic groups and comprises a hydroxyadamantyl moiety, a polymerized norbornene group and at least two distinct repeat units that each has a photoacid-labile group.

Independent claim 47 calls for a photoresist composition that comprises a tetrapolymer that is at least substantially free of aromatic groups and comprises a hydroxyadamantyl moiety, a polymerized norbornene group, and a lactone group.

The cited documents, whether considered alone or in combination, clearly fail to teach or suggest such photoresists as Applicants claim.

As the reference is understood, Fujishima teaches resins comprising acrylamide, hydroxyadamantylmethacrylate and alkyladamantylmethacrylate monomers. As noted in prior Office Actions, Fujishima neither teaches nor suggests incorporation of norbornene based monomers into the resin composition.

The Rahman and Willson documents are cited for a report of norbornene units.

For reasons that include those discussed in Applicants' prior responses, it is believed the proposed combination of documents is the result of impermissible hindsight reconstruction of Applicants' claimed invention.

However, even if one were to assume for argument's sake that the cited combination of documents is somehow legitimate, the combination nowhere suggests use of the tetrapolymers that Applicants claim.

Nor do the cited documents suggest use of tetrapolymers comprising at least two distinct polymerized norbornene repeat units, as recited in Applicants' claims 52 and 53. Such polymers with at least two distinct polymerized norbornene repeat units are a preferred aspect of Applicants' invention, as discussed at page 5 of the application.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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